News Release

Mayor Fillmore to advance Halifax's role as Canada's Defence City in Ottawa

Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026 (Halifax, N.S.) - Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Andy Fillmore will travel to Ottawa this week to advance Halifax's defence, housing, and infrastructure priorities with federal representatives and municipal leaders from across Canada.

The Mayor's trip will focus on preparing Halifax for the economic and population growth expected from Canada's generational investments in national defence.

"Halifax is Canada's Defence City, and we have an enormous opportunity in front of us," said Mayor Fillmore. "Major defence investments will create jobs, grow businesses, and bring more workers and families to our region. We need to make sure the housing, infrastructure, and services that support that growth keep pace."

Mayor Fillmore will meet with elected and Department of National Defence officials to discuss defence-driven growth, infrastructure requirements, Canada's defence industrial capacity, and opportunities associated with the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project.

While in Ottawa, he will also participate in the **Summit on Housing and the Canadian Economy**, co-hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The Mayor will join the *Local Solutions, National Impact: Housing and Community Prosperity* panel, focused on the role municipalities play in increasing housing supply, supporting economic growth, and attracting the workforce communities need.

"Housing is economic infrastructure," said Mayor Fillmore. "Whether we're talking about growing our defence sector, attracting investment, or building a stronger economy, people need somewhere they can afford to live. City Hall needs to use the tools within our control to make it easier to build, while working with other governments to deliver the infrastructure that growth requires.

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Note to editors: A copy of this release is available at halifax.ca/mayor.

Background:

- In March, the Government of Canada announced more than $2 billion in defence investments for Nova Scotia. Mayor Fillmore welcomed the investment and called for defence growth to be matched by investments in water, wastewater, transportation, and joint-use infrastructure that can unlock housing for military and civilian families.

- In July, the Government of Canada selected Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) as the preferred supplier to begin negotiations for Canada's next fleet of up to 12 submarines. The Mayor called the decision one of Canada's most consequential defence procurements in a generation and highlighted Halifax's potential role in long-term maintenance, training, and in-service support. Canada intends to conclude contracting no later than the end of 2027, with the first four submarines targeted for delivery in 2034.
- The Halifax Regional Municipality will host the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Conference and Trade Show in June 2027, bringing municipal leaders from across Canada to Halifax.
- FCM will cover the Mayor's airfare and accommodations associated with his participation in the Summit on Housing and the Canadian Economy.
- Any other expenses associated with the Mayor's travel will be publicly disclosed on the Mayor's expenses page following the trip.

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